

He was also shot by a bullet that barely missed his heart.

As he lay in the hospital recuperating he could hear the fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was nursed back to health in the home of Maggie Stevenson, who later came to reside with the family in Heber.

It was in 1864 that George and his mother came by ox team to Utah. After they arrived, his mother married Robert McKnight Sr.

After his marriage to Martha Fisher, George spent his life as a miner, working mainly in the Park City mines.

Martha left her native Scotland at the age of 10 to come to America with her parents. They traveled to Salt Lake City in Oscar Stoddart's handcart company. She and her brother David, who was two years younger, pulled a handcart the entire distance from Florence, Nebraska, to Salt Lake City. In 1865 the family moved to Heber and took up homestead land on Daniels Creek.

After the marriage of George and Martha he decided that there were too many people in Heber with "Mc" on their names, so he dropped it and the family has been known as Murray since.

Martha was known as a good homemaker. She was extremely neat and clean. Someone once said: "I never stepped on her doorstep. It was always so white and clean I always stepped over it." However, her home was always open to those who needed help. She took her son's motherless child to rear, she reared three of her daughter's children and also another grandson. Some of her grandchildren lived with her while attending school in Heber.

She was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

### FREDERICK RASBAND

Frederick Rasband was born on September 2, 1856, in Provo, Utah, at the home of his parents.

Their home was a wagon in which they crossed the plains. His parents were Thomas Rasband and Elizabeth Giles Rasband, who became members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Lincoln, England. They were baptized by Elder James Goodwin. With their baby girl Emily, 11

months old, they sailed on the ship "North Atland." On April 12, 1856, they left Quincy, Illinois, with a company coming to Utah, and arrived in Salt Lake Valley on August 16, 1856, and at Provo on August 25, 1856.

Frederick was born eight days after his parents' arrival in Provo Valley. He was born in a wagon box, but later his parents were able to build a little home.

In the spring of 1859, when Frederick was less than three years old, the Rasband family, with 18 other families, started up Provo Canyon to try to make a new home in the valley beyond. On April 30, 1859, they began their journey. Traveling up the canyon, they had to make their own road or follow cattle trails. It had been thought the valley was good only as a feeding place for cattle. They crossed Daniels Creek on the ice and there were heavy drifts of snow along the way.

As a boy, Frederick helped his parents, brothers and sisters build a home and raise food for the family. Even as a little fellow he helped pull sagebrush and clear the land for cultivation. This was a hard, slow task, as most of the breaking up was done with oxen. The winters were long and severe, and Frederick, with his brothers and other boys, did his share of work in clearing paths to the place where the stock was kept and in getting wood from the canyons to keep the family warm.

Frederick, with the other children of the valley, attended school during the winter months in a little one-room schoolhouse. When he became older, he went away to work to earn money to help his father build the brick home now occupied by the Olpin Mortuary.

Frederick married Mary Elizabeth Hawkins on September 29, 1880, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Mary Elizabeth was the daughter of John Bennett Hawkins and Sarah Moulton Hawkins, pioneers in Salt Lake Valley. Henry Moulton, a brother of Mary Elizabeth's mother, owned a ranch and built a large, comfortable home, which is still in fairly good condition, at Keetley. As a young girl, Mary E. spent some happy summers visiting at her uncle's ranch and with other relatives in Heber Valley, and thus met her husband. The young couple built a two-room farm house

just south of the home of Frederick's brother William.

Frederick worked in the Hatch store and was a leader in all community activities. When the YMMIA was organized in Heber he was chosen one of the superintendency and was the dramatic leader.

The first child of Frederick and Mary Elizabeth, Sarah Elizabeth (Sadie), was born May 4, 1885, in the little white two-room home, just two days after Mary's mother died in Salt Lake City.

Less than two years later the family of three moved to Park City, where four of the Rasband brothers owned and operated the Rasband Meat & Grocery Market. At this time the inhabitants of the little mining town were hard, rough miners, who were very much prejudiced against the LDS Church and its members. Frederick Rasband was a man of wise judgment and gentle persuasion, and soon became a friend to all. He was asked to administer to their sick and perform the last sad rites for their dead. For many years there was no Church organization in Park City and the children were thrilled to attend Sunday School in the Heber Stake Tabernacle or the Eighth Ward in Salt Lake City when visiting there.

The second daughter, Ethel May, was born January 31, 1890, just a short time after the family had moved into their new home, where a layer of straw was placed over the floors under the new rag carpets woven by hand.

During the year 1894 two young missionaries were sent from Salt Lake City to labor among the members of the Church in the mining town. They were Elder Henry Tanner and Andrew Jensen. At this time the first baptismal service was performed in a creek running through a field north of Park City.

After the missionaries had departed, Elder Thomas L. Allen of Coalville was sent to Park City and a branch of the Church was organized, with Brother Allen as presiding Elder. Soon there was a Sunday School, with Frederick Rasband as superintendent. All meetings for a short time were held in the homes of members. Then as the numbers increased, a lodge hall was rented.

The last and youngest daughter, Della, was born May 10, 1895.

In November, 1898, Frederick Rasband

was called to go on a mission to England, leaving his wife and three little girls. He was the first missionary sent from Park City. While he was gone his mother passed away. After laboring in England about twenty months he was suddenly released and told he was needed at home. He was much disturbed, as he did not learn the reason for his release until after his return home, July 2, 1901.

Soon after the Park City Ward was organized and Frederick Rasband was made bishop, a position he held nine years.

Frederick Rasband also was very active in civic affairs of the thriving little mining town. He was a member of the first volunteer fire department, was a city councilman many years, and was elected as state senator in the Utah State Legislature from Wasatch and Summit Counties.

In 1909 the Frederick Rasband family moved to Provo and were active members of the First and Bonneville Wards. In 1916 they moved to Salt Lake City and purchased a home in Highland Park.

He died February 22, 1947, at the age of 90 years, after having been ill a year. His wife passed away May 9, 1942. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary September 29, 1930.

### MARTHA JANE TAYLOR WITT

Martha Jane Taylor was born in the town of Alchamoore, Lancashire County, England, on April 13, 1852. She was the daughter of James Taylor and Alice Walker, both having been born at Alchamoore. She had the following brothers and sisters: Joseph, Peter, Betty and Sarah Ann. The brother, Peter, died when a small boy, before the family left England.

Father Taylor worked as a coal miner in the mines near Alchamoore. The mother worked as a weaver in the mills before her marriage. After she commenced having children she had a little loom of her own in her home, a string was tied from the cradle to the treadle, thus rocking her baby as she worked.

Elders Orson Pratt and Orson Hyde brought the gospel to the family. The mother accepted the gospel and was baptized, but the father did not join the Church. He fought against it a long time, possibly

because he worked as a coal miner and the persecution and ridicule of his fellow workmen would be more than he could bear.

One time there was considerable persecution, but in spite of it the mother still remained firm and said, though it were written on her back that she was a Mormon so all the world could see, she would be proud of it.

Father Taylor fought against the Church for a long time after the mother had been baptized and made things very disagreeable at home. One morning, after mother had gone downstairs to get breakfast (this was a morning after he had been particularly cross and quarrelsome at her for joining the Church), she heard a terrible scuffle upstairs, just like two men were in a terrible fight. She hurried upstairs as fast as she could and found father Taylor lying prostrated on the bed. He could hardly speak for a few minutes, but finally was able to tell her that he had been fighting with the devil. He said that the evil one had suddenly appeared in the room in the form of a fine-looking man and asked him to shake hands with him, and then stretched forth his hand. Father Taylor refused and said: "Your hand is as broad as a back spittle." (A back spittle was a large paddle used to take bread out of ovens.) With that, the evil one fell upon him and a terrible struggle ensued. After this experience the father joined the Church and was faithful and true ever after.

Betty and Joseph were both married in England and left for America, settling in Pennsylvania. Their idea was to get work and save sufficient money so the rest of the family might come. Betty worked by the day, washing, scrubbing, etc.

Martha was six years old when the family left England. It took them six weeks from the time they left Liverpool, England, until they arrived in New York City. They went to Philadelphia, where the family was reunited. The family lived in Philadelphia two years, the father and brother working in the coal mines in order to save money enough to move on to Utah. Betty died and was buried in Bellview, Pennsylvania.

The family next moved to Gravi, five miles out of St. Louis, where the father also worked in the coal mines. An outfit was obtained here for the journey westward.

They moved on to Florence, where they had to remain six weeks on account of Martha being stricken with typhoid fever.

They started in the spring of 1861, with an independent company, arriving in this valley in September. There were eight in the family: Father and mother Taylor, Sarah Ann, Martha, Joseph and his wife and two children. Most of them walked every step of the way. Martha was very weak from her recent illness and had to ride part of the way with other emigrants.

The Taylor family came directly to Heber, being directed this way rather than to Salt Lake. It was indeed a dreary and desolate sight that greeted them as they were told they had arrived at their destination. Coming from a thickly populated country to barren desert land dotted with only a few houses in a fort, it took quite a bit of stamina and faith to stay.

The family didn't want to remain here. Brother Joseph knew only one man and he was John Crook, whom he had known in England. He was very friendly to them and was perhaps responsible for the family staying in this valley, as they were thinking seriously of going to Santaquin, where their friends were located.

Joseph Taylor and family spent the first winter in the home of Thomas Rasband, while the father, mother, Martha and Sarah Ann lived in the home of James Carlile. These houses, of course, formed part of the fort.

With the coming of spring, the family went to live with Elisha Thomas, who lived in the eastern part of town. He was one of the first to move quite a distance from the fort.

As pay for their work they received from Elisha Thomas two cows and the piece of ground where Uncle Will Murdock's house now stands. That winter the family had their own little log house.

Father Taylor was a sufferer from asthma, due to his many years spent in the coal mines. He was therefore unable to do hard manual labor, although he was always willing. At one time he was badly in need of a load of wood, so some of the young fellows in Heber went to the river and brought him back a fine load of wood. They had a dance that night in the Taylor home to celebrate the occasion, beds and

furniture being removed for a jolly time. Joseph Moulton, Bill Giles and Noah Mayo were among the young fellows who got the load of wood.

In 1867, Mother Taylor started to weave with a loom from a man in Midway. She made linsey, jeans and blankets. Sometimes she would get her pay two or three years after delivering the goods. She took anything and everything for her pay—wood, flour, wheat, meat, etc.

Martha went to school at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mary Jordan and later William Chatwin. Her schooling consisted of only a month or two out of each year. Reading and writing were the main subjects taught.

Martha was kept busy helping her mother with the spinning and weaving. Her job was to fill the spools ready for the loom. She was not kept too busy, however, for she had time to make friends with Sarah Murdock Lindsay, Aggie Watson Lindsay, the Sessions girls and Mary Gallagher Murdock.

When 18 years of age, Martha married John Wesley Witt, who was born February 10, 1892, in Hamilton County, Illinois. She was married on November 1, 1869, in the old Endowment House at Salt Lake by Daniel H. Wells. She was the second wife of Mr. Witt and went to live in his home. This arrangement proved to be very unsatisfactory and brought much sorrow to her heart. She lived there about five years, her son, Joseph William, being born during that time. She then lived in her mother's old home, where her son, John E., was born. After her mother's home was sold she moved to the west part of town, near Lynn's old home. James Taylor, Charles, David and Alma were born there. Charles and David died while small, Will and James dying after maturity, both having families.

After leaving the Witt home, Martha depended upon her own labors for a livelihood until her boys were old enough to help her.

Martha served many years in the choir and as teacher in the Second Ward Relief Society.

She had the privilege of going over part of the old Mormon trail on July 24, 1930. Where she had walked as a little girl she, on that day, traveled along, without any

effort at all, in an automobile over 300 miles. The same distance with their ox team would have required at least twenty days.

She died January 14, 1940.

## JOHANNA CRISTINE HANBERG NICOL

(Note: In 1940, Jane Hatch, president of the County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, wrote the following tribute to Johanna Cristine Hanberg Nicol. It contains many elements of her biography, and also a poetic tribute. The statement by Mrs. Turner is included here, as it was given at the time.)

Mrs. Nicol was among the first to accept The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Denmark. She crossed the ocean with Erastus Snow in March, 1852, and came to Utah that same year.)

Dear Pioneer Daughters:

To me it certainly is a joy and pleasure to write a little historical tribute to my much-beloved friend, mother and neighbor. A nurse, doctor, ministering angel, sent to us from our Heavenly Father, who knew what a bright light she would be to show the way to heaven. God is love and faith was her prayer. She lightened earth's pain and made life more fair. She was our Pioneer Doctor, so much needed in those days. A natural nurse, gathered herbs and knew how to use them, wanted to be a doctor and was chosen by this stake to go to Salt Lake and take a course in obstetrics taught by Romona B. Pratt. She succeeded and was very happy and successful in her practice, using economically what people could procure in those times. In her record is recorded 800 babies and the loss of only one woman.

Our country doctor, Johanna Cristine Hanberg Nicol, was born March 11, 1839, at Odense-Fyen, Denmark. She was baptized December 14, 1850. Arriving in Salt Lake on October 16, 1852, she was married to Thomas Nicol in 1858. She was the first of her family to join the Church and came across the sea with a girl friend, Augusta Dorius, who was baptized the same day and lived with Mrs. Nicol until Mrs. Nicol married. To her dying day they were friends.

Sister Nicol was a wonderful stepmother,